

May 11, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I want to commend you for your continued leadership on homeland security and express the City's support for your "Homeland Security FORWARD Funding Act of 2005", which prioritizes threat and risk and improves the ability of local first responders to deter, prevent and respond to terrorism.

Your proposal goes the furthest in supporting both the 9/11 and Administration's principle that homeland security funds should be allocated on the basis of risk of terrorism. The bill corrects the major formula imbalance that exists in current law by reducing the current mandatory state minimums from 0.75% to 0.25%. The current inequity has resulted in, since 9/11, California receiving \$5 per capita compared to Wyoming collecting \$38 per capita.

Your bill also reaffirms the federal government's critical partnership with the nation's areas that are at highest risk of terrorist attack by grandfathering existing high-threat regions under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The City and County of San Francisco has proudly, under its UASI grant, aggressively been leading the Bay Area in a ten county regional plan to help protect and strengthen the region against terrorist attacks.

I want to again express my deep appreciate for you and your staff's outreach to San Francisco and other stakeholders throughout California who are on the front lines of the war on terrorism. Thank you for your important efforts.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Mayor